(c) The industrial production in 1991-92 to 1993-94 was constrained by balance of payment crisis of 1990-91 which required an import squeeze, the tight monetary policy pursued to contain inflation which affected the demand and raised the cost of borrowing and a fall in investment demand due to reduction in public expenditure and investment.

Increasing the prices of newsprint by NEPA

1587. SHRI K. R. MALKANI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NEPA, a PSU, producing newsprint, has raised its price four times in the last four months;

(b) whether it is a fact that in the last five years the NEPA has raised newsprint prices nine times by a total of 158 per cent:

(c) whether it is a fact that private sector paper units have also followed suit;

(d) whether it is a fact that all this increase in paper prices is affecting the spread of literacy in general and the press in particular;

(e) whether Government would consider improving and economising the working of NEPA to bring down its prices; and

(f) whether Government propose to consider privatising NEPA?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) No, Sir. Nepa has increased prices 3 times in the last 4 months.

(b) No, Sir. Nepa has increased prices eight times by a total of 83% in the last five years.

(c) and (d) Increase in price is related with various factors like cost of inputs, overall market situation etc. There is no statutory control over the prices of indigenous newsprint. The import of newsprint has also been decanalised w.e.f. 1.4.1992. The price of imported Newsprint has also gone up substantially.

(e) and (f) For upgradation of technology in Nepa Limited as a long term measure, Government has decided to invite offers for participation of Private Sector in the Company.

Increase in price of newsprint

1588. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Newspaper Society have expressed shock over the increase in the prices of newsprint recently;

(b) if so, the total amount of increase of newsprint effected during the last one year;

(c) whether the increase in newsprint has adversely affected the newspaper organisations; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to reconsider its decision and to bring down the prices of newsprint in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) A statement on the increase in the price of newsprint by the major newsprint mills in Public Sector during the last year is attached. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The Indian Newspaper Society (INS) have represented to the Government against increase in the prices of newsprint. There is no statutory control over the prices of

newsprint. Every revision in the prices of indigenous newsprint is referred to the Bureau of Industrial Costs & Prices (BICP) for a post-facto study into its causes and justification.

Statement

Name of the Mill	Date of Increase	Price Increases (Rs. per MT)
Tamil Nadu Newsprint and Papers Limited (TNPL) .	10-10-1994	1430
	07-12-1994	1530
The Mysore Paper Mills Limited (MPM)	07-10-1994	1523
	10-12-1994	1200
Hindustan Newsprint Limited (HNL)	10-10-1994	1300
	12-12-1994	1150
NEPA Ltd.	12-10-1994	1200
	10-11-1994	500
	12-12-1994	1500

Reference of TCI to BIFR

1589. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Kankinara unit of TCI awaits BIFR revival", published in "The Statesman" (Calcutta edition), dated the 5th March, 1995;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Company has become more sick after its reference to Board for Industrial and Financial Reconstruction;

(c) whether the Company has a large number of saleable tyres stacked in godowns; and

(d) if so, the facts and details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Company was referred to BIFR after it became "sick" as per the definition under The Sick Industrial Companies Act. The Company continues to be "Sick" after its reference to BIFR.

(c) and (d) The Company has nearly 21,000 tyres in stock at present which is nearly equal to one month of production. This stock is being gradually cleared by channelising major part of sales collections towards payment of excise duty.

Government decision on revival of sick PSUs

1590. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:
SHRI GAYA SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken any decision ot revive some of the sick PSUs under the administrative jurisdiction of Ministry of Industry;

(b) whether Braithwaite and Company Limited has also been selected for revival;